PS-9 PEOPLES TEM. 928C 996C

ARA

December 8, 1978

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
ACTION MEMORANDUM
REVIEWED BY S/S DATE
RDS or DECLASSIFY
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
EXTENDED EXEMPTIONS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1816

7822675

UNCLASSIFIED

TO : The Secretary

FROM : ARA - Viron P. Vaky
: H - Douglas J. Bennet, Jr

SUBJECT : Letter to Congressman Fascell Concerning the Jonestown Tragedy

On November 20 Congressman Fascell wrote to the President to express his concern over the death of Congressman Ryan and perhaps hundreds of other Americans in Guyana. He urged that there be an investigation of these events.

A day later you received a letter from Congressman Zablocki requesting documents pertaining to events in Guyana and posing a number of questions for reply by the Department. Our response will be ready by the beginning of next week.

Due to the gravity of this matter and Congressman Fascell's clear concern, we believe it appropriate that you reply to his letter to the President.

Recommendation:

That you sign the letter to Congressman Fascell at Tab 1.

Attachments:

1. Letter to Congressman Fascell.
2. Congressman Fascell's November 20 letter.

Drafted: ARA:EGrove, Jr.:bgt 12/7/78; ext 28385
Clearance: H:CKrizek
S/S #7822602, XR 7822575; ARA Log #928C, 996C.

UNCLASSIFIED

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

ARA/Grove

PS-9 PEOPLES TEM. 1/3/79

December 8, 1978

Dear Dante:

I am replying to your letter to the President of November 20.

I fully agree that it is necessary to have a thorough examination of the events leading to the tragedy at Jonestown. We have also been working closely with the Government of Guyana to investigate the deaths of Congressman Ryan and the other Americans at Jonestown.

Chairman Zablocki has submitted to us a number of questions to which detailed replies will be provided in the next few days. We have already made available to the International Relations Committee copies of some nine hundred records, both from the Department and Embassy at Georgetown, concerning the Peoples Temple, and the events, as we are aware of them, that occurred up to the time of the assassination. Our response to the Committee will address the role of the Government of Guyana, and will also provide information on the responsibilities of consular officials in assisting Americans abroad. There are of course important constitutional issues involved in any investigation of other colonies of Americans abroad.

The Justice Department, in particular the F.B.I., is conducting its own investigations into the assassination. I can assure you that the State Department will make every effort to keep the Congress fully informed of the progress of our efforts. We are proceeding with these matters on

The Honorable
Dante B. Fascell, Chairman,
International Operations Subcommittee,
Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives

an urgent basis. You will be provided a copy of our response to Chairman Zablocki as soon as it is available.

May I also take this opportunity to express to you again our great sense of loss and tragedy over the deaths of Congressman Ryan and all the other Americans at Jonestown.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Drafted: ARA:BGrove, Jr.:bgt
12/7/78, ext 28386
RE-TYPED IN ARA 12/13/78
S/S #7822602, XR 7822675
ARA Log # 928C, 996C.

Clearances: D:MBarnes
CA:BWatson
L:JMichel
L/ARA:MKozak
H:EKrizek
ARA:VPVaky
ARA:JABushnell
ARA:GLister

P780174-0009

7822675

DANTE B. FASCELL
15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
CHAIRMAN: INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEMBER: INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MEMBER: LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
CHAIRMAN

INDIAN—UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP
CHAIRMAN, U.S. DELEGATION

CHARLES R. O'REGAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

7822675

November 20, 1978

ACTION
is assigned to
ARA
CA

The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

re: Tragic events in Guyana including death of Congressman Ryan.

Dear Cy:

Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of a letter which I have sent to the President today.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

DANTE B. FASCELL
Member of Congress

DBF:BB
Enclosure

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1978 NOV 24 AM 10 13

FADRC
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

DANTE B. FASCELL
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
CHAIRMAN: INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEMBER: INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MEMBER: LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
CHAIRMAN

CANADIAN—UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP
CO-CHAIRMAN, U.S. DELEGATION

CHARLES R. O'REGAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

7822602

STATE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 20, 1978

ACT. FM/NSC
CONGRESSIONAL
LIAISON

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Dear Mr. President:

The tragic events of this weekend, which resulted in the death of Congressman Leo Ryan and perhaps hundreds of other Americans in Guyana, require a full, formal investigation by the United States government and the apprehension of those responsible, if they are still alive.

Any such investigation would, of course, require the full cooperation of the Guyanese government and I assume that the necessary steps for seeking such cooperation have already been initiated. I trust that our government has also offered its full assistance to the Guyanese.

The investigation should focus not only on the specific events of this incident, but also on the existence and maintenance of other colonies of Americans which may be located abroad and the effect on the rights and welfare of U.S. citizens. There are a number of issues to be addressed, some of which are: the status of their citizenship; the role of the host government; and the role of responsibility of the United States government.

I believe a joint State-Justice Department investigation should be launched immediately to look into all of these issues. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations, I would want to be kept fully informed of the progress and results of such an investigation.

I know you share my sense of horror and sadness over Congressman Ryan's and the other Americans' deaths and will act promptly to do whatever is necessary to uncover the facts of this bizarre event.

Sincerely,

Dante B. Fascell

DANTE B. FASCELL
Member of Congress

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

SUC

CLASSIFICATION: U

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 7822602

REFERRAL

Date: 11/22/78
NSC log# 7058

MEMORANDUM FOR:

STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Congressional Correspondence

To: The President

From: Dante B. Fascell

Date: November 20, 1978

Subject: Guyana re Death of Leo Ryan

ACTION REQUESTED:

XXXXXX Direct Reply _____ Copy of Interim Reply and Incoming Attached

XXXXXXX AN INTERIM ACK HAS BEEN SENT BY WHITE HOUSE XXXXX Furnish info copy

COMMENTS: Please furnish a reply within seven days. Thank you.

Harold Sklar
for CHRISTINE DODSON
STAFF SECRETARY

Received in S/S-I
11/24 at (

CLASSIFICATION: U

9 28C

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 7822602

REFERRAL

Date: 11/22/78
NSC log# 7058

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Congressional Correspondence

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ACTION REQUESTED:

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COMMENTS: Please furnish a reply within seven days. Thank you.

Harold Ickes
for CHRISTINE DODSON
STAFF SECRETARY

Received in S/S-I
11/24 at 12:15

CLASSIFICATION: U

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 7822602

REFERRAL

Date: 11/22/78
NSC log# 7058

MEMORANDUM FOR:

STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Congressional Correspondence

To: The President

From: Dante B. Fascell

Date: November 20, 1978

Subject: Guyana re Death of Leo Ryan

ACTION REQUESTED:

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XXXXXXX AN INTERIM ACK HAS BEEN SENT BY WHITE HOUSE XXXXX Furnish info copy

COMMENTS: Please furnish a reply within seven days. Thank you.

Harold Ickes
for CHRISTINE DODSON
STAFF SECRETARY

Received in S/S-I
11/24 at 12:15